



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

August 1992

Still lots to go for in the weeks ahead as summer stumbles to a close. Nat's N Pembroke meet signals the end of the season while Derrick's traditional evening at Black Rocks marks the start of autumn.

I hope to publish a provisional 1993 meets list next month. Expect some meets on it which you might volunteer to lead and think hard over the next few weeks whether there is a venue you could take the club to.

Please find enclosed details of the annual dinner on 21 November. If you wish to come, please return the form soon to Mike Wynne.

RT

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary:

W 5 August	Baslow area
28 - 30 August	St David's
5 - 6 September	Heathy Lea Barbeque
W 9 September	Black Rocks
18 - 19 Sept	Coniston

W 5 August Baslow Area Rob Tresidder
Afterwards at the Prince of Wales in Baslow.

28 - 30 August St David's Nat Allen
Asking a favour of Rob Tresidder usually lands one with an equal task for ones sins - so I now write this piece!

Camping will be at Rhosson Ganol Farm, St Justinian. Map ref SM 728253. OS sheets 157 (1:50 000) and SM 62/72 (1:25 000). Follow signs in St David's to St Justinian life boat station, passing the Farmer's Arms (if you can) and the cathedral, on your right. After farm houses, take a track on the left above the caravan site entrance. We usually camp in the first field on the left. Should you get to the sea, then you have gone too far.

What more can be said of Oreads in Pembrokeshire? Ever since Ernie Phillips took me off in his open topped Singer in 1953, the club has featured strongly in the area and we now have such institutions as Gregson and Sant beach parties, Burgess dinghy trips, Foster barbeques, Gadsby photographic poses, Carnell gin and tonics, Rock Hudson's knee breeches and of course rock for climbing. There are routes of all grades up to E6 within striking distance of the campsite; a walk or short drive will see you well placed for your crag.

The Climbers' Club guide to Pembroke is essential reading and there is available in local shops a new flimsy and expensive

tops brought out by locals to fill in some gaps until the new guide is out.

As your meet leader, I will be a bit of a drop off as I return from the States on the 28th so a very clapped out Nat and Ruth will be around sometime. However other seasoned Greads will be on hand to give advice on crag and route choice. Pray for good weather.

[Many thanks to Nat for writing this enticing notice and taking on the St David's meet at short notice. See me at The Brunswick or ring me on 0629 823126 (24 hr) for lifts etc. - Rob Tresidder]

5 - 6 September Heathy Lea Barbeque Colin Hobday
This is the meet which was postponed in April so now is your chance to go into the freezer and dig out those spare ribs, steaks and sausages.

I propose to meet about 2.15 at Heathy Lea on the Saturday and then walk over to Gardom's where the afternoon will be spent climbing. The barbecue will commence around 7 o'clock. Please bring your own meat, drinks etc. and also if you have a portable barbecue, it would be a great help. Music will be provided by that famous trio of Wren, Squires and Gregson. Why not come along for the day or the evening and then stay the night. (Please book a bed space.)

Sunday will see a prompt start at 9.30 for a walk to Great Longstone for lunch (? Red Lion) via Calton Pastures returning to the hut in the afternoon over Longstone Edge.

For more details, see me in the Brunswick or telephone 0332 551594. Look forward to seeing you there.

W 9 September Black Rocks Derrick Bugess
Shorter evenings mean crags closer to home so where better for an evening's climbing than Black Rocks, *our own gritstone crag?* Routes to suit all tastes. Forget what you usually do (& enjoy), look for that hidden challenge you've not done for years if ever. How about The Raunge, VJ Crack, East Crack with the rib start or an Uread traverse of the Prom - only hard VS but rarely climbed? What about the CB circuit: up Blind Man's, left onto Central Buttress, leap onto the Pinnacle (room for 5), fall and mantle-shelf back on to CB and up to finish - a great fun route?

Look forward to seeing you all there and afterwards, for a change, in the Malt Shovel.

18 - 19 September Coniston Richard Hopkinson
See advance notice in last month's newsletter. A notice will also appear next month.

P A S T E V E N T S A N D A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y

Hoy (Michael Moss)

The four intrepid members (Mike Moss, Bryan Mattock, Graham Weston and Kev Allsobrook) left Derby on Friday night and after twelve hours in a car, two hours on one boat and half an hour on another, they arrived at the bothy in Rackwick Bay at about 9 p.m. on Saturday night. A fairly peaceful night was spent there with three other climbers. The morning saw them rise before us, but no matter. Eventually we made our way across the moor to find the Old Man standing 450 feet out of the sea, but looking more of 750 feet. The path to the bottom could be described as

"interesting" at best but "terminal" seems a better word. Once at the bottom a wait followed while the other climbers vacated the first pitch.

Bryan and Mike set off first, while Kev and I followed after. Kev led the first pitch and told me I was leading the second (crux) pitch. This was to prove harder than I had anticipated and saw me pulling on wooden wedges and tatty old slings. Kev made light work of it but expressed a strong desire for the toilet. The next two pitches are climbed on rock of dubious nature and amongst vomiting sea birds. The first pitch is a lovely square corner and leads to an airy position on top. All four of us spent a short while on top before the abseil down. This was achieved with little incident, bar Kev's swing as a jammed rope freed.

A pleasant stroll back over the moor to the bothy and a celebratory meal rounded the day off well. Now all we had to do was get home.

GW

Ogwen (Richard Coghlan)

It was not a promising start: illness caused my promised lift to withdraw and the weather looked dire. Fortunately Lisa stepped into the breach, providing a lift (and the loan of her walking boots - less bendy than mine - to do Milestone Buttress on Saturday). Saturday's weather looked unpromising but it never rained on us, and a large party (Lisa, Graham, Nick, Kev, Daryl, Simon and Beryl) made the Milestone ascent. The party made its own entertainment on the way down by posting Kev down a peculiar abseil and then using the path spotted by Lisa two feet away to make a more conventional descent. The rest of the day was spent on Little Tryfan avoiding two members of the Snowdon Mountain Rescue Team who appeared to think that a large detached block was a pretty neat belay, and whom Graham named "The Brothers Grimm". They were encountered again on Sunday (the weather by this time absolutely perfect) on the east face of Tryfan about to embark on Grooved Arete. As a result a rapid change in plans was made and the same party as Saturday's galloped (or shambled) up to do Gashed Crag and took very seriously the guide book's recommendation that the ascent should be made by a large jovial party. Daryl set the tone by announcing in a tremendous voice to the Ogwen valley that the two blokes on the ledge with him were puzzled about route finding, oh, sorry, amend that to a bloke and a lady. He later had a nose-bleed, but apparently the offended party had nothing to do with it; perhaps it was the altitude.

A great weekend for the fifteen or so who attended, and one that I'm sure most of us won't forget in a hurry!

BS

Pinnacle of Achievement (Bobby Gilbert)

The meet proper started at 7.30 p.m. in the Miner's Standard, the earlier part of the day merely being the qualifying round in which to gather suitable material for the evening's tales of adventure. A selection of achievements were O'Reilly soloing 5b, Richard cycling 100 miles, Claire leading 4c, Tresidder taking large lobs in wildly overhanging territory, (all believed to be firsts!) Brian cycled to Rhydd Ddu and back, (as did Pete, but since he didn't make it to the pub, this hardly counts). Mike and Nick climbed the Grogan on Burbage ("the hardest gritstone route I've ever done"), Kev and Beryl ascended the Thorn, Kate created

a lightning work of art and Gail led Nosferatu ("Just another E2 really"). Even the meet leader managed to succeed on Quietus due to a lucky freak updraught of wind blowing him straight past the crux! Many others were also out throwing themselves on and off rocks, bicycles etc. If you missed out, don't worry, now's the time to start preparing for your 1993 Pinnacle of Achievement.
DG

Buttermere (Roger Larkam)

Several teams made it up to the Lakes for Roger's meet. The more successful quartet climbed on Shepherd's Crag on Saturday and slithered around on Grey Crag on Sunday. The other foursome set out for Gable on the Saturday morning. Curiously only two made it to Scarth Gap and continued in deteriorating conditions across Kirkfell and up Great gable via Needle Ridge. On the way home the party was separated by the bubbling torrent of Wharnscale Beck, the meet leader showing more bottle/athleticism/whatever than the meetssec. A poor forecast, wet camping gear and the sight of a twosome fleeing south after successes on Hoy, Stoer, Carnmore and in The Fish persuaded us two too to wend our way.
RT

Heathy Lea (Rob Tresidder)

A very select meet this one! On Saturday afternoon Esmond and I biked mostly off road from Baslow to Hassop, Great Longstone, Grindlow, Bretton, Eyam, Calver and Curbar. On Sunday we were joined by prospective member Nikki Brain and climbed in a cold wind on Baslow Edge and then in more shelter on Apple Buttress on Gardom's. Meanwhile Les Peel had been ambushed under Chatsworth Edge and dragged off for a birthday party in the barn.
RT

H U T B O O K I N G S

Tan-yr-Wyddfa

25 July - 31 August Exclusive Dread use (no bookings)

Heathy Lea

18 - 19 September Cottage fully booked; barn vacant.

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 1 September. Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday, 24 August. I especially look forward to hearing from Doreen Hodge, Colin Hobday and Richard Coghlan. Material would be even more welcome if submitted on 5 1/4" diskette, preferably with accompanying printout in case of incompatibility.

Rob Tresidder

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